

**Interagency Wildfire Management Team
Meeting Notes
June 29, 2005**

Doug Tucker (Los Alamos County Fire Department) noted that the weather is getting hotter and drier. Consequently, the County Council approved a proclamation on June 28 banning open burning on County lands, certain fireworks, and smoking in unimproved areas. For further information, contact Michael Thompson at 662-8305. There will be a public fireworks display Monday evening in White Rock.

Manny L'Esperance (Emergency Management and Response, LANL) announced that an emergency response exercise was conducted at the EOC last Thursday. The results of this exercise were informative and will lead to improvements at the EOC. Manny also reported that the Santa Fe National Forest has entered Stage I fire restrictions. These restrictions include a prohibition of campfires except in approved areas, smoking restrictions, and a prohibition of all fireworks.

Lindsay Quam (Infrastructure Projects Group, LANL) reported on the planned thinning projects at TA-54, hand thinning near archaeological sites in TA-36, and the commencement of thinning in the southeast portion of TA-36 by the end of July.

Phil Taylor (Los Alamos County Emergency Management) announced that the County Emergency Operations Center organization at the EOC is in development.

Randy Balice (Ecology Group, LANL) has completed fire hazard monitoring at twelve plots. Thinned and unthinned ponderosa pine forests on LANL property and in Rendija Canyon have been sampled. Currently, several unthinned and unburned mixed conifer forest plots in the Dome Road area are being sampled.

The Climate Assessment for the Southwest project (CLIMAS), located at the Institute for the Study of Planet Earth, University of Arizona, reports through its June 2005 Outlook that abnormally dry conditions to moderate drought will persist through September. Wildfire potential will remain above average as grasses continue to cure. For more information, see <http://www.ispe.arizona.edu/climas/forecasts.html>

The next IWMT meeting will be at 9:30 AM on Wednesday, July 13, at TA-21, Building 210 in the ENV-ECO (Ecology Group) Conference Room (142). The IWMT meets every other week and these meetings are open to the public. Contact Randy Balice (balice@lanl.gov, 505-665-1270) for further information, or to get on the distribution list for these meeting notes.